

CLAIMS

1. A method of managing protection resources in a communications network, enabling allocation of protection resources to active resources and including in particular
5 a step of establishing a resource organization or information model made up of protection groups or selectors controlling switching between active resources and protection resources, by means of terminals or connection points, characterized in that said
10 organization or information model includes groups comprising or using protection resources associated with a specific flow direction.
2. A management method according to claim 1, wherein said
15 resources each have a sending end and a receiving end, characterized in that the organization or information model includes a dedicated unidirectional protection group at the receiving end and a dedicated unidirectional protection group at the sending end, each of said
20 unidirectional protection groups using differentiated protection resources and commanding their use independently of each other.
3. A management method according to claim 2,
25 characterized in that the two unidirectional protection groups each have specific and distinct characteristics and switching configurations, all the terminals or connection points of the dedicated protection group at the receiving end being receivers and all the terminals
30 or connection points of the dedicated protection group at the sending end being senders.
4. A management method according to claim 2,
characterized in that each of the unidirectional
35 dedicated protection groups contains protection units and protected units, each protection unit being connected to a reliable resource and an unreliable resource.

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5. A management method according to claim 1,
characterized in that, in the case of bidirectional
traffic, the organization or information model is made up
5 of a unidirectional protection group for the receiving
end, a unidirectional protection group for the sending or
source end, and a bidirectional protection group
comprising the aforementioned two unidirectional
protection groups.

10 6. A telecommunications network, in particular a WDM
transmission network, comprising active resources,
handling transmission and call set-up and maintenance in
normal operation, and additional protection resources,
15 normally inactive and intended to supplant the active
resources in the event of malfunction thereof,
characterized in that it manages assignment and uses the
protection resources by applying the management method
according to claim 1.

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